

# Surfers for Wetlands



## What's Threatening Arroyo Burro Creek?



### Where is Arroyo Burro Creek?

Arroyo Burro Creek is an urban creek that extends 7 miles from the Santa Ynez Mountains in California at 3,800 feet elevation to the ocean at Arroyo Burro Beach County Park in Santa Barbara, and traverses rural estates, orchards, dense residential and commercial development and open spaces.

### What is Threatening Arroyo Burro Creek?

The open space next to the Arroyo Burro Creek was a water bottling plant, a farm, a golf course and there was a proposed housing development. The Arroyo Burro Creek flows into the Pacific Ocean at Las Positas and constantly received a bad water quality report. The creek was filled with invasive plants, tons of concrete, debris and trash, including an old Volkswagen bug.

### What is Happening Now?

The 14.7 acre parcel on Arroyo Burro Creek was purchased by the City of Santa Barbara in early 2016, when the Parks and Recreation Department and Creeks Division collaborated with the Trust for Public Land to acquire the parcel, creating a new open space park.

A \$1.5 million creek-side restoration project was completed in the Arroyo Burro Open Space. The project removed non-native plants and replaced them with 7,500 native ones, many of which were planted by Peabody Elementary school kids and during a community planting day. Seventy-one tons of concrete and debris were removed from the creek, including the old Volkswagen bug. Biodegradable fiber bundles were strategically placed to combat erosion until root systems can take over the job. For added support, the bank closest to Las Positas Road was reinforced with boulders salvaged from the Montecito mudslides. Irrigation was also installed to ensure the survival of plants during upcoming summers but will be removed in the next three years after the plants mature.

### Where can you get more information on Arroyo Burro Creek?

More information is available on the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project at:  
<https://scwrp.org/projects/arroyo-burro-restoration-at-las-positas/>



For more information visit [www.surfersforwetlands.org](http://www.surfersforwetlands.org)



@surfers4wetland